

Name: _____

Class #: _____

Characteristics of Living Things Homework

We have discussed the characteristics that scientists use to determine if something is considered a living thing or not. You have two resource readings in the notes section of your binder that detail three different sets of criteria for living things. (reference "What is Life?" and "Background Essay: Is It Alive?").

1. In the space below, list the characteristics of living things that are mentioned in "What is life?"
2. From the Background Essay: Is It Alive, write down the seven characteristics that this article mentions
3. On the back of that essay, there is a list of characteristics from Utah Science. Copy that list in the space below.
4. Compare the three lists. What are some of the characteristics that they all have in common? What are some of the other characteristics that they do not have in common. Do you think that these other characteristics will make a big difference in determining if an object is a living organism?

5. Would you consider an egg to be a living thing? Why or why not?

6. Would you consider a fossil to be a living thing? Explain your answer.

7. Sometimes people cut a section off of a plant and put it into a cup of water for decoration. Why do they put it in a cup of water? Would you consider this to be a living thing? Why or why not?